(b) to (d) Of the four recommendations, one relates to Mid-Day Meal Scheme and three to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in their 66th Report (where out of 4 paras, 3 relate to SSA) has not made any recommendation relating to price rise in relation to this programme. Implementation of SSA Programme since 2000-01 has seen bringing of all eligible children in the age group of 6-14 years into the fold of elementary education except for 45 lakhs out-of-school children who represent children of 'difficult to reach category'.

Shortage of qualified faculty in higher education

2182. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a shortage of properly qualified faculty in Central and State universities and other institutions of higher education, such as IITs and IIMs;

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take for recruiting adequate number of qualified teachers; and

(c) how our students would enter into the global competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Governments have been requested by the Central Government frequently to fill up the vacant positions in universities and colleges as such vacancies adversely affect the standards of education. During the State Education Minister's Conference held on 23-24 July, 2008, States agreed on the need for a clear plan of action for filling up all vacant positions of faculty.

In order to attract and retain their quality faculty members, IITs have been employing suitable strategic which include providing of good residential accommodation, good medical facilities, initial research grants and suitable schemes for sharing of consultancy charges. IITs have also increased their intake in Ph. D. programming with a view of making available increased number of eligible persons to take up faculty positions. The IIMs have also been taking suitable steps to fill up vacancies.

Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Mid-day Meal Scheme

2183. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance released during the last five years, yearwise, for Mid-day Meal Scheme to Andhra Pradesh, at the primary stage and the upper primary stage;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to extend Mid-day Meals to children studying in classes VI to VIII; and

(c) how many children at primary and upper primary level would get the benefit of Mid-day Meal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The details of Central assistance released to Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise, is given as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Cost of food-grains paid to FCI	Cooking cost (Pry)	Cooking cost (U/Pry)	MME (Pry)	MME (U/Pry)	Transport Subsidy		Kitchen sheds		Kitchen devices		Total
						Reimbursed	Central Assistance (Pry. + U. Pry.)	Pry	U/Pry	Pry	U/Pry	
2003-04	Food grain of 178278.25 MTs was allocated.										178278.25	
2004-05	12721.71	7600.98	—	—	—	1322.21	—	—	—	—	—	21644.90
2005-06	7405.366	12441.80	—	290.55	—	1063.73	—	—	—	—	—	21201.44
2006-07	6754.95	16289.84	—	135.90	—	902.78	—	10320.81	—	2480.86	—	36885.14
2007-08	5653.77	14375.72	3686.66	414.54	94.00	673.68	404.63	11607.00	8389.80	742.80	699.15	46741.75

(b) Mid Day Meal scheme was extended to government and government aided upper primary schools and centres run under the Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) in 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) with effect from 1.10.2007, of which, 737 blocks were in Andhra Pradesh. With effect from 1.4.2008, it has been extended to government and government aided upper primary schools and EGS and AIE centres, across the country.

(c) A total of about 68,87,278 children viz. 50,73,213 at primary and 18,14,065 at upper primary are availing mid-day meals during the current year (2008-09).

Ensuring education upto 14 years of age

2184. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parliament had unanimously amended Article 21(A) in December, 2002 to ensure education for children upto the age of 14 years from six years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to enact a law in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Constitutional (Eighty Sixth) Amendment Act 2002 notified on 13th December 2002 inserted Article 21 A in the Constitution, which seeks to make education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6-14 years by providing that "*the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine*".

(b) A Bill to give effect to the Constitutional (Eighty Sixth) Amendment Act, 2002 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 15.12.2008.

Opening a Central university in Kalahandi

2185. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has made a request for opening a Central university in Kalahandi district of Orissa, which is the most backward tribaldominated region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the time-frame within which the request of the State Government would be considered and agreed to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) With a view to providing one Central university to each of the sixteen States, which do not have Central university, including Orissa, the Central University Bill 2008 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23.10.2008. According to the provisions of clause 3(5) of the Bill, the headquarters of each of the new Central university shall be such as may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the official gazette. As regards Orissa, the State Government